

ZOLA, NOVELIST AND REFORMER  
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above every contemporary. Daudet waged Ms  
battle with  
a quick and slender rapier, Zola brandished a  
heavy mace —  
aMn to those redoubtable weapons with which  
the warriors  
of mediaeval days beat down the helms of their  
antagonists.

Some, too, have likened Daudet to an Arab  
horse, all eagerness and nerves; while Zola has been called a  
cactus of  
Provence that had sprouted between the  
paving-stones of  
Paris. The great city was his birthplace, and  
he was proud  
of it; yet Provence certainly had many claims  
on Mm, for  
there he was conceived, and there, as the  
following pages  
will show, he spent the greater part of his  
childhood under  
circumstances which exercised no little  
influence on his disposition, life, and work.